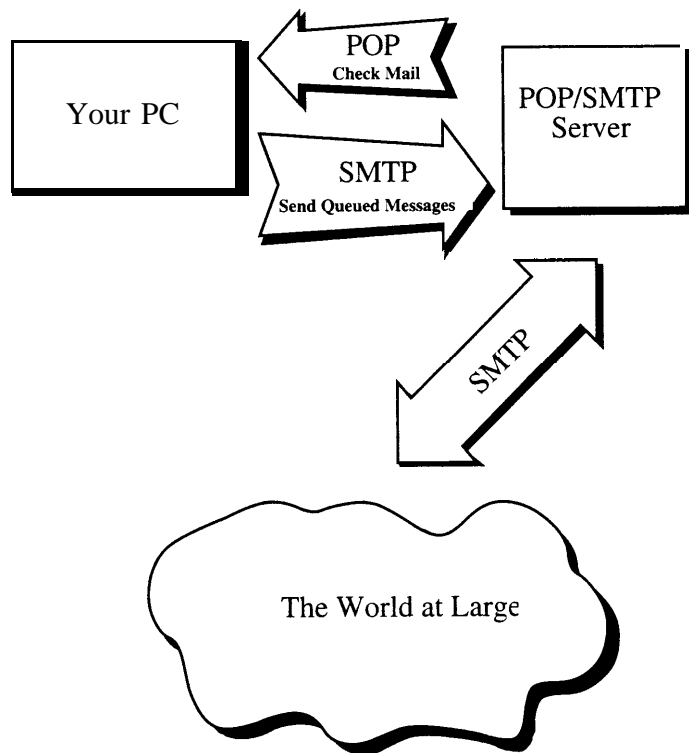# Appendix C - Mail Transport

Introduction

Eudora uses Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) to transfer your outgoing mail to your SMTP server machine, which in turn uses SMTP to send your mail to the world at large. Mail from the world at large arrives on your Post Office Protocol (POP) server, where it waits for Eudora to pick it up with POP version 3. The mail Eudora sends and receives is constructed in accordance with RFC 822 and RFC 1521 (MIME).

Eudora mail transport overview

Outgoing Mail

When you send an e-mail message to someone, Eudora uses SMTP to send the mail to your local SMTP server computer. That computer then sends the mail to your addressee's computer, also (usually) by means of the SMTP protocol.

Why doesn' t Eudora talk directly to your addressee's computer? For one thing, it would take a lot longer for your mail to leave your PC, because your PC would have to call up each addressee's computer and deliver your mail. For another, some computers are "hard to find;" it's much better to let another computer "hunt" for your addressee than to make your PC do it. Finally, sometimes your addressee's computers won' t be available when you want to send mail. The SMTP server handles this by holding your mail until the other computer is ready to accept it, eliminating the inconvenience of having unsent messages hanging around on your PC.

Incoming Mail

When somebody sends you mail, other computers use the SMTP protocol to deliver the mail to your POP server. Your POP server puts mail in your "mail drop," where it stays until the Eudora program picks it up. When you check your mail, Eudora uses POP version 3 to pick up your mail and move it to your PC.

Why doesn't Eudora use SMTP to receive your mail? SMTP works best when the computers it knows about are always ready for mail. Unless you wanted to run Eudora 24 hours per day, seven days a week, SMTP wouldn't work very well for you. It also doesn't work well in lab environments, where you might use any number of different PCs.

More Information

If you want to know more about the Internet in general, consult the book *Internetworking with TCP/IP,* by Douglas Comer, 1988, Prentice-Hall ISBN 0-13-470154-2025.

If you want to know more about SMTP, RFC 822, POP version 3 and MIME, the official standards are:

RFC 821, "Simple Mail Transfer Protocol," by Jonathan B. Postel

RFC 822, "Standard for the Format of Internet Text Messages," by Dave Crockeb

RFC 1939, "Post Office Protocol, Version 3," by Marshall Rose

RFC 1521, "Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions," by Ned Freed and Nathaniel Borenstein

You can find the RFCS by anonymous ftp to *nic.ddn.mil*; see Internetworking with TCP/IP for details.